

# MOZAMBIQUE ON FULL ALERT

MOZAMBIQUE has placed its forces on full alert, ready to counter any hostile attempt to exploit the sorrow that has gripped the country since President Samora Machel's death this week.

In an address to the nation, the Minister of National Defence, General Alberto Chipande, called on "all members of the army, air force, navy, police and national security service to stay on the alert for any attempt by our enemies to exploit the difficult times facing the country."

The mood of the people remains one of anger and sorrow as the country enters the two-month mourning period declared yesterday by the Mozambican government.

And while government sources remain tightlipped as regards the circumstances of the plane crash near Komatipoort in South Africa which killed President Machel, there is continued speculation of a South African role in the accident.

Sources in the Mozambican capital assert that SA "jammed communications between the presidential jet and Maputo, causing the pilot to lose direction and crash".

The SA authorities admit having had the Russian-built jet on radar screens long before it entered SA airspace and crashed.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and other heads of state have also accused SA of being involved in the accident.

The plane's black box, which recorded details of the flight, have been analysed by the Frelimo Central Committee — but comment on its findings is not expected for at least some days.

Frelimo officials have meanwhile scoffed at suggestions in the SA media that President Machel's death will precipitate a power struggle in Mozambique.

The officials suggested that the reports had been fed to the media by the SA authorities and MNR elements to sow confusion.

President Machel's body will lie in state in the city hall of Maputo from today until the state funeral, which will be held next Tuesday in the Mozambican capital.

Central committee members will meet after the funeral to decide on a successor to President Machel.

In his exhortation, read over Mozambican radio and television, General Chipande said: "The life of Marshall of the Republic, Samora Machel, is an example to all Mozambicans, because of his courage, coherence, firmness, dynamism and total dedication to the cause of our people.

"These qualities will forever be our fountain of inspiration and learning".

Media  
'power  
tussle'  
reports  
refuted